

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WARSAW 003661

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [PL](#)

SUBJECT: LECH KACZYNSKI ELECTED PRESIDENT OF POLAND

REF: WARSAW 3656 AND PREVIOUS

¶11. Summary: Lech Kaczynski snatched victory in Poland's presidential election on October 23, in a surprising come from behind win against Donald Tusk. Elections results will be announced officially this afternoon, but with well over 90 percent of the votes tallied, Kaczynski secured his election with a strong showing in the south and east of Poland, and a whopping 68% of rural votes. Plans for the coalition between Kaczynski's Law and Justice Party (PiS) and the Civic Platform (PO) continue today, with the expected announcement of the government's composition on Friday, October 28. End Summary.

Polska "A" and Polska "B"

¶12. Lech Kaczynski won a solid victory against his PO opponent, Donald Tusk, gaining 54% of votes cast nationwide. Splitting the map of Poland in half, Kaczynski won in the eight eastern and southern provinces of the country, while Tusk won all eight of the northern and western provinces. Kaczynski's brand of social conservatism and nationalistic rhetoric played particularly well in rural areas, where he gained a stunning 68 percent of the vote. Tusk carried the cities and younger Poles. Kaczynski won the overwhelming support (83 percent) of Samoobrona voters from the first presidential round, whose leader, Andrzej Lepper, urged his supporters to back PiS. Tusk won many voters on the left but they did not turn out in high numbers.

Coalition Partners Begin Concrete Discussions

¶13. Kaczynski quickly claimed victory after the polls closed October 23, and Tusk called to offer his congratulations. Both reiterated their intention to move forward with the PiS-PO coalition government. With the bitterly fought campaign finally over, PiS and PO resumed negotiations October 24 to discuss the composition of their coalition government. Prime Minister-designate Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz and PO's Deputy Prime Minister-designate Jan Rokita announced in a joint press conference that opening talks would focus on economic issues. Marcinkiewicz said he hoped to announce the cabinet on Friday, October 28. Kaczynski will assume the presidency on December 23.

¶14. Despite wide speculation about various cabinet positions, Marcinkiewicz has kept quiet with respect to naming specific individuals in his cabinet, and we believe most positions are still under negotiation. In his victory speech last night, Kaczynski suggested that Tusk would be a good choice for speaker of the Sejm, but on Monday morning Tusk reiterated that Bronislaw Komorowski remains PO's candidate. Kaczynski also said that Elzbieta Jakubiak will be his Presidential Chief of Staff, following him from the Warsaw mayor's office.

Foreign Policy Implications

¶15. During the campaign, Kaczynski said that his two first trips abroad as president would be to the United States and the Vatican, drawing a sharp distinction with the Euro-friendlier Tusk. With respect to foreign relations, in his first comments as President-elect, Kaczynski said that he wanted a strong working relationship with Germany, but added that he was concerned over plans to build a center for Germans expelled from former German territories after World War II, as well as the proposed pipeline under the Baltic Sea to transport oil from Russia to Germany bypassing Poland entirely. He called for Poland to play an active role in the European Union, but said he was opposed to the EU constitution in its current form.

¶16. Comment: With Kaczynski's victory in the presidential election, PiS neatly flipped expectations that it would be the junior partner in ruling Poland. Both PiS and PO officials were quick to reassure that the coalition would move forward. In the short term the parties have nowhere else to turn for any other viable political partners, but PiS will have a full plate in delivering on campaign promises to clean up government and maintain Poland's costly social

welfare system, while PO has insisted upon fiscal responsibility. PiS attacks against the savagery of PO's "liberalism" resonated with voters, but will make economic policies particularly tricky to coordinate. Kaczynski already commented that he wants to play a bigger role in domestic policy than his predecessor, Aleksander Kwasniewski. After its twin failures in both parliamentary and presidential rounds, the long term viability of PO is an open question.

ASHE